(c) whether the factors responsible for poor financial health of BSNL have since been ascertained; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the financial health of BSNL ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. BSNL's profit after tax has fallen sharply during last few years.

(b) The details of BSNL's profit after tax for last five years is as following:-

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Profit after tax	10184	8940	7806	3009	575

(c) The decline in profit is mainly due to following reasons :-

(i) There has been decline in revenue due to reduction in tariff and substantial surrender of fixed lines telephony by subscribers.

(ii) Expenditure on employees has increased despite decline in employees number due to revision of pay.

(d) Various steps have already been taken by the BSNL management for improving the financial health such as focusing on quality of service, better customer care, strengthening the sales and marketing channel to attract and retain the customers and exploring new business opportunities such as sharing of tower infrastructure & media and sharing of new services such as Managed Network Services, International Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) etc.

Disinvestment in BSNL

3517. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to disinvest BSNL;

(b) if so, the proposal thereof;

(c) whether the proposal has been discussed with the employees; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) and (b) Sir, BSNL Board in its 113th Board meeting held on 25th July, 2008, after considering all the pros and cons of listing and in order to strengthen Company's Claim for conferment of Navratna status decided that the Company should get listed.

The Government is considering to offer part of its equity shareholding in BSNL by an offer for sale to the public due to following reasons :

* It will facilitate BSNL to get Navratana status.

* It will promote growth of BSNL.

* It will provide an access to the capital market for raising fresh equity capital, if required.

The timing of the issue depends on the condition of the capital market.

(c) and (d) Various staff association and employees unions have expressed their reservation on the proposed disinvestment/listing. However, to allay the fears of the employees, efforts had been made by BSNL Management to apprise them of the advantages of listing.

Implementation of Sixth Pay Commission recommendations in BSNL

3518. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission with regarding to Maternity Leave, Child Care Leave, etc. is being implemented in BSNL;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) to (c) Sir, the recommendations of the Sixth Central Pay Commission are not applicable to BSNL. BSNL being a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE), is following Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) pattern of pay scales. The pay scales and other related benefits are governed by the guidelines of the Department of Public Enterprises which have recently been revised based on recommendations of 2nd Pay Revision Committee.

Telephone Services

3519. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in Bihar and Maharashtra not having telephone connectivity;

(b) the list of applicants who have applied for various telephone services; and

(c) the time that would be taken for providing facility to the waitlisted people by the BSNL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT) : (a) Out of 39,032 and 41,442 inhabited villages in Bihar and Maharashtra Telecom Circles, 1162 and 3,272 villages have not been provided with Village Public Telephone (VPT) as on 30 June, 2009 respectively.

(b) A Statement indicating number of waitlisted applicants for various services such as Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), Landline etc. in the States of Bihar and Maharashtra is given below :-